

Phantasm: Endgame

by
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Based on Don Coscarelli's Phantasm

FADE IN:

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY SPACE GATE - NIGHT

REGGIE BANNISTER kneels on the ground as he cradles MIKE PEARSON in his arms.

REGGIE
Mike -- Mike! You're still
alive!

MIKE
I'm dying, Reg.

REGGIE
No, don't let go. I'll be
coming right back for ya.

As Reggie disappears through the Space Gate, Mike lies motionless. His eyes are open, staring into nothingness.

MONTAGE

- A) Mike speaks to JEBEDIAH MORNINGSIDE, sitting on his porch.
- B) The TALL MAN hanging a priest up by his rosary beads.
- C) The Tall Man falls down a mine shaft.
- D) An acid embalming dissolves The Tall Man.
- E) The Tall Man is skewered with a lance.
- F) A hearse explodes and kills The Tall Man.
- G) The Tall Man emerges from a Space Gate, inside a mortuary embalming room, and throws an acid damaged replica of himself back through.
- H) The Tall Man materializes from the Death Valley Space Gate.
- I) A SILVER SPHERE is ripped out of Mike's head by The Tall Man.
- J) The Tall Man disappears through the Death Valley Space Gate.

BACK TO SCENE

MIKE (V.O.)

Who is the Tall Man? He used to be
Jebediah Morningside. But what he
has become is pure evil. My friends
and I have fought him many times.
The Tall Man seems eternal, because
whenever we have managed to kill
him, he always comes back. He has
taken from me those that I loved
the most, and now he has taken me.
Somehow, I know he will take our
world, unless he is stopped.

EXT. RED PLANET - DAY

Reggie comes through the Space Gate and arrives on the Red Planet. He immediately falls to the ground and is hardly able to move, due to the gravity, heat and blasting wind.

Reg crawls behind a rock formation and finds shelter from the harsh red sunlight and gusting wind. He tries to lift his four-barrel shotgun, but is unable to.

As Reggie lies there helpless, a silver sphere flies straight toward him.

An eyeball appendage emerges from the sphere. Reggie screams and passes out.

INT. FREE SECTOR ALPHA - MAIN CHAMBER - DAY

Reggie lies unconscious inside a cave.

Reg awakens. He gasps for breath and struggles to adjust his eyes to the dim red light of the cave.

REGGIE

What the Hell -- where am I?

Reg sits up, spits and wipes his tongue with the back of his hand.

As he tries to stand, he turns his head to find a sphere hovering inches from his face.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh shit!

As Reggie turns and jumps to his feet, a voice calls out to him.

SHELBY

Have no fear, Reggie Bannister.

Reggie moves quickly away from the voice, screaming as he does so. After he reaches a safe distance, he turns and looks back.

There stands SHELBY, a young brunette in her twenties. She has jet black hair and dark eyes.

REGGIE

Who the Hell are you?

SHELBY

My name is Shelby. I am a friend.

REGGIE

A friend?

Reggie hacks and coughs and wipes his mouth on his sleeve.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

I have enough friends.

Reg looks at Shelby, then at his surroundings.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

By the way -- I've come here to rescue a friend of mine. I might just need your help after all.

Reg spots his four-barrel shotgun, which he immediately picks up and breaks down.

Reggie checks the condition of the shells.

INSERT - SHELLS

Shell casings are in all four barrels.

BACK TO SCENE

REGGIE

What is this place?

Reggie shoulders the gun and checks his pockets for extra shells.

RAE

You are in Free Sector Alpha,
one of several places that
(MORE)

RAE (CONT'D)
are beyond the influence
of the Tall Man.

Reggie turns to see RAE, a voluptuous blonde with blue eyes.
Reg cracks a slight smile.

REGGIE
The Tall Man? That's what we call
him too. So who are you and where
is here -- and why does my mouth
taste like I've been chugging forty
weight?

RAE
I am Rae. You have Shel to
thank for your being here. She
found you half dead near the
erection site of the Ground
Zero Space Gate. It took her
three days and nights to drag
you here.

REGGIE
Then I guess I owe you one,
Shel. Thanks for saving my
ass.

SHELBY
Don't mention it. But know
this -- your ass was saved for
a reason.

REGGIE
What reason?

RAE
That will be revealed to you
when the time is right. As for
taste you're experiencing, that
can't be helped. It is an
unavoidable consequence of the
conversion process.

REGGIE
Conversion process -- what's
that? Just what the Hell have
you done to me?

SHELBY
Only as a convert can your
body properly function on this
planet. Haven't you been
wondering why you can move
about normally now, as
(MORE)

SHELBY (CONT'D)
compared to how you were
when you first arrived here?
You were practically immobile
when I found you, remember?

REGGIE
Yeah -- so what did you do to
convert me -- I mean like exactly?

RAE
In order for your unaltered
human frame to function here,
you must periodically ingest
what we call Gugga.

REGGIE
What the -- what the
fuck is Gugga?

SHELBY
Gugga is a substance that
affects the molecular make up
of carbon based units. It
makes your molecules dense,
thus resistant to this planet's
gravity and heat. It works
perfectly in the DRONES, they
use it for blood. But unaltered
human frames...

RAE
(to Reggie)
Such as yours, which are
not suited for Plasmatic Proxy. . .

SHELBY
Must continually consume
enough Gugga in order to
function properly.

REGGIE
You still haven't told me
where the Hell the stuff
comes from. I mean, I don't
see any Gugga stands around
here or anything.

Reggie hacks up a wad of phlegm and spits it out.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Ugh! This shit tastes familiar. It
almost tastes. . .

Reg looks down at where he spat to see a yellow glob of goop lying on the cave floor.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Holy shit! You're feeding me
that zombie squeeze!

SHELBY
Gugga is a secretion from
life forms indigenous to
this planet.

Reggie turns and looks at Rae's cumbersome breasts, and smiles.

REGGIE
Well, I guess things could
be worse.

A figure stirs behind Reggie.

JODY
They are worse, buddy.

Reggie turns quickly to see JODY PEARSON walking toward him.

REGGIE
Aw shit! What are you doing
here -- alive? Mike told me you
were killed, and before that he
told me not to trust you.

JODY
Don't you remember what I
told you Reg. Seeing is easy,
it is understanding that's
hard.

REGGIE
Well I understand that you're
a liar. You're not our Jody.
The Jody I knew would have
done anything. . .

JODY
I didn't betray Mike! I was
trying to save him.

REGGIE
Save him? Well you didn't do
such a good job. Where is he
anyway? Have you seen him?

JODY

I did all I could do damn it!
Look, when I'm in your
dimension I've got no place
to hide. And when I was near
Mike, I was an easy find for
the Tall Man.

Several spheres fly overhead. Reggie becomes nervous, but Jody reassures him with a hand gesture.

The spheres turn into sapient forms and gather around Jody.

JODY (CONT'D)

Whenever any of us are in
close proximity to the Tall
Man, we are unable to resist his
will -- we must obey him.

The transformed spheres begin to speak beginning with TERA, a tall dark skinned woman in her thirties, with a touch of gray in her hair. She startles Reggie with her height, dwarfing Reg by a good two feet.

TERA

His will becomes our will.
His thoughts become ours.

JODY

We would all still be
enslaved if I hadn't
stumbled across this place.

Jody walks around the different members of his group, which consists of the silver spheres he liberated.

JODY (CONT'D)

After I had realized that
I was myself again, I figured
that this place, this cave was
the reason I was free. After
awhile I managed to rescue Shel
and Rae. They were part of a
drone escort. I grabbed them
when they passed the opening of
the cave. The movement took off
from there.

REGGIE

Well, amigo, I guess that you're
the big cheese around here.

Reggie sits down. His breathing becomes labored and he sweats profusely. He puts down his shotgun and wipes his face with both hands.

Shel and Rae notice Reggie's condition and move toward the rear of the cave. They pick up the shotgun, without Reg noticing, and take it with them.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
So, what's so special about
this cave anyway? I mean -- why
are you free here?

COB, a gray haired man in his mid fifties, answers Reg.

COB
Well, as best as we can tell,
it is ore in the walls that
acts as an inhibitor. It
blocks control of the Masters.

REGGIE
(coughing)
The Masters? Who are the Masters?
And where the Hell is Mike? Do you
know where he is or not?

Reggie physical fatigue increases.

Jody motions to Rae and Shel. They nod, then approach Reggie from behind.

JODY
(smiling)
Don't worry about that now.
All will be told to you later.
As for now, what you need is some
hair of the dog that bit ya.

Rae kneels down behind Reg, and Shel positions herself behind Rae. Rae taps Reggie on the shoulder.

Reg turns, and finds himself eye level and inches away from Rae's buxom bosoms. Reggie shrugs his shoulders and smiles.

REGGIE
Well, you gotta do what you
gotta do.

Reggie moves his hands toward Rae's bosom.

SHELBY (O.S.)
I think the man is confused.

Tera turns Reggie around, takes his hands and looks him in the eye.

TERA

Gugga comes from life forms which were born on this planet.

RAE

I was born in Long Beach.

As Jody and Tera laugh, Rae and Shel tap Reggie's shoulder again.

Reggie turns, and looks at Rae and Shel. They both look back at Reg, then look down toward their hands.

Reggie looks down to see what they are looking at. To his revulsion, he sees that they are clutching a slimy, hairy appendage.

REGGIE'S POV - APPENDAGE

The appendage is radiating from a huge, formless living mass, that is attached to the ceiling of the cave. It has gone unnoticed till now. The torches, recently lit by Rae and Shelby, now reveal its existence.

The end of the appendage has a nipple shaped tip, out of which is dripping the yellow Gugga substance.

BACK TO SCENE

REGGIE

Uh uh. No fucking way man.
No Way! No wa. . .

Jody and Tera grab Reggie. They hold him down on his back, while Shelby forces open Reg's mouth.

REGGIE'S POV - APPENDAGE

Rae squeezes out the Gugga into Reggie's mouth.

EXT. DEATH VALLEY SPACE GATE - DAWN

As Mike lies motionless on the desert floor, four drones emerge through the Space Gate. They grab Mike by his arms and legs, pick him up, and then carry him toward the dimension doorway.

The drones and Mike disappear through the portal.

EXT. RED PLANET - DUSK

The drones emerge, with Mike in tow, through the Space Gate. They make their way toward the Hive, which houses the Tall Man and those to whom he answers.

As Mike is dragged through the wasteland, he notices columns of worker drones being escorted by metallic spheres.

The drones are carrying mining tools, and pulling carts of freshly mined ore. They are under the command of the silver spheres.

The silver spheres are following the commands of the MASTER SPHERES, which are gold in color and at least three times as big as the silver spheres. The silver spheres outnumber the masters by about twenty-five to one.

EXT. RED PLANET - HIVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The drones, still dragging Mike, approach the opening to the Hive. The pathway is lit with torches.

INT. HIVE - NIGHT

The drones and Mike enter the Hive. After passing through several large chambers, they continue inwards through a labyrinth of corridors and passageways.

They pass many spheres, silver and master, that occasionally hover over and examine Mike before allowing the drones to continue along.

INT. HIVE CORE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The slow moving party reaches the corridor to the Hive Core, which is the central most part of the Hive.

Two master spheres guard the entrance. They laser scan the drones and Mike, then allow them entry.

INT. HIVE CORE - NIGHT

Darkness immediately envelops them. In the distance is a faint light.

As they near they take notice of a huge, black OVERLORD SPHERE hovering over the light. Beneath this massive orb lies the illuminated cataleptic body of Jebediah Morningside.

Jebediah's body rests upon a stone slab. It has a myriad of tubes, wires and such connected to it, all of which lead up to the Overlord Sphere. The black sphere has tubes, wires and such connected to it, which extend out behind it into a dark void.

Standing on the left side of Jebediah is TALL MIKE, the mortal projection emanating from the sphere seized out of Mike's head by the Tall Man.

Stationed at Jebediah's right is the Tall Man himself. He smiles as the workers deliver Mike, who is barely conscious. The Tall Man looks first at Mike, then at Jebediah, then back at Mike.

THE TALL MAN
Welcome home, boy.

INT. FREE SECTOR ALPHA - MAIN CHAMBER - NIGHT

Reggie awakens and jumps to his feet, coughing and hacking up phlegm. Alone in the cavern, he curses Jody and his comrades.

Reggie notices the faint smell of perfume. He sniffs and looks about the cave.

REGGIE (V.O.)
My God, that smells just like
the perfume. . .No -- it couldn't
be.

Reggie sees someone in the corner of his eye. He turns to look, but the figure disappears into the rear recesses of the cave.

Reg quickly follows.

As he enters the cavern's nether regions, he carefully looks about, but sees nothing.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Naw -- it couldn't have been.

As Reg turns to leave, he comes face to face with CELESTE, his wife who has been dead for two years.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Celeste?

CELESTE

Hi Reggie.

REGGIE

Oh, oh baby!

Reg runs to Celeste, who greets him with open arms.

Reggie grabs and hugs her tight. Tears begin to stream from his eyes.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Honey, I thought, I thought
you were dead.

CELESTE

Well, I am Reg, as you
understand it. My physical form
has perished, but my
consciousness is preserved.

REGGIE

How did you get here?

CELESTE

Right after that horrible Tall Man
took us, Jody found and freed us.
We didn't know how to get back to
you.

REGGIE

It doesn't matter, just as
long as we're together again,
babe. Hey, where's Bonnie and
Aunt Martha? Are they here too?

A voice speaks out of the darkness.

AUNT MARTHA

Of course I am. It would take
a lot more than some son of a bitch
Tall Man to keep me away from
my favorite nephew. Come here
boy, and give your auntie a
big hug.

Reggie goes to AUNT MARTHA and gives her a hug, while wiping
away the tears still streaming from his eyes.

His aunt still looks like a woman in her middle to late
fifties, despite the fact that she's been dead for two years.

REGGIE

It's good to see you, auntie.

As Reg hugs Martha, he feels someone grab his legs from the rear.

Reggie looks down behind him to see the top of the blonde head of BONNIE, his ten-year-old daughter who's been dead for two years.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Well who do we have here? Could it
be -- my Bonnie!

As Reggie turns to pick up Bonnie, she quickly scampers away.

BONNIE

Come on, Daddy. Follow me.

Reggie looks at Celeste and Martha. He smiles at them, and they both return a smile.

Reg then turns and runs after Bonnie.

Reggie follows Bonnie's giggles through the catacombs, until he comes to the archway of a long, dark corridor.

INT. FREE SECTOR ALPHA - REAR CHAMBER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Reg sees only darkness beyond the archway. He can hear Bonnie's voice beckoning him from within.

Reg enters the passageway.

INT. FREE SECTOR ALPHA - REAR CHAMBER - NIGHT

Reggie emerges from the corridor into a dimly lit circular chamber.

Reg notices openings that are evenly spaced along the circumference of the chamber. The openings are all similar to the one he just came through.

BONNIE

Daddy. . .Daddy -- over here Daddy.

Reggie turns and catches a glimpse of Bonnie ducking into one of the chamber cavities.

Reg still has yet to see her face clearly. His face has a look of apprehension.

Reggie runs over to the hole he saw his daughter go into.

REGGIE

Bonnie! Come on out now. Daddy
wants to see you.

Reg hears Bonnie giggle. The laughter becomes louder and
louder.

Reggie panics. He spins awkwardly around, trying to determine
which opening the sound is coming from.

As Reg spins, the laughter becomes more and more intense.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Bonnie! Come out here right. . .

Before he can finish his sentence, Bonnie jumps out of the
darkness right in front of her father.

Reggie finally gets to see her young, pretty face.

BONNIE

BOO!

Bonnie laughs loudly at her father. Reg is startled at first,
but then joins in Bonnie's laughter.

They lovingly embrace.

REGGIE

I've missed you so much
sweetheart.

BONNIE

(in "Drone" voice)

I've missed you too, Daaaaadyyyyy!

Reggie's look of joy turns to one of horror. He quickly
breaks the embrace and looks at Bonnie.

The beautiful face of his daughter has turned into the
withered, rancid face of a drone.

As Reggie screams, a horde of drones pour out of the chamber
doors and engulf Reg and his daughter.

INT. FREE SECTOR ALPHA - MAIN CHAMBER - NIGHT

Reg abruptly awakens, still screaming. As he calms down, he
gives a sigh of relief.

REGGIE

Holy shit! That was one mother
of a. . .

As he is speaking, he turns his head to look dead bang into Bonnie's decrepit, shriveled drone face.

BONNIE

Where'd you go, Daddy?

INT. FREE SECTOR ALPHA - MAIN CHAMBER - NIGHT

Reggie awakens, screaming maniacally. He jumps to his feet and frantically checks himself and his surroundings. Reg begins to calm down.

Reg takes notice of two men, SAM and CAM talking nearby. They resemble each other, both in their mid twenties with sun bleached hair and tan skin.

They are heavily engaged in conversation, and apparently took no notice to Reggie's commotion.

SAM

(to Reggie)

Those double wake ups are the worst, dude. Just when ya think you're safe, like -- you're not!

REGGIE

(panting)

How, how do. . .

SAM

How do I know what was in your head? Shit man, there's nothing to it. By the way, my name is Sam and that's Cam.

CAM

Waves, man.

Cam makes wavy gestures with his hands.

CAM (CONT'D)

Just waves. Your brain makes waves that travel through space.

SAM

They start at one place, and then travel over distance as waves. Just like light and sound.

CAM

Or those righteous early
morning six-foot swells off
Malibu. Oh dude, I miss
those more than anything.

SAM

Anything except some sun
ripened, golden brown
cooter.

CAM

Ya got that right, bro.

Sam and Cam give each other a high five, then a low five.

CAM (CONT'D)

Man, there were these twins
I used to know who would. . .

REGGIE

Will you two shut the Hell up!

CAM

Sorry 'bout that, bro.

Reggie shakes his head and starts to walk around the cavern.
He notices that he's alone except for Sam and Cam.

REGGIE

Say, where the Hell is Jody and
the rest of the ball brigade.

SAM

They've all gone off on a raid.
El Capitan left us behind to whip
your ass in shape.

REGGIE

In shape? In shape for what?

CAM

Don't ya know? You're like the
chosen one, man -- the Messiah.

SAM

You're the dude we've been
waiting for -- like Moses. You
shall lead your people out of
bondage.

CAM
(mimicking Charlton
Heston)
Pharaoh -- Let my people go.

REGGIE
Well, thanks for the Messiah
compliment, but I seriously don't
know what the Hell you guys are
talking about! Besides, you see
this gray?

Reggie rubs the hair still left on his balding head.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
I'm through fuckin' with zombies.
I just want to find Mike and
high tail it outta here.

MIN
That might be why you came,
bud, but it ain't the reason
you're here.

The voice came from MIN, a muscular, gray haired Asian man in
his late forties.

MIN (CONT'D)
I am Min. It's a pleasure to
meet you, Bannister. We'll be
spending much time together
during the next few weeks.

REGGIE
Few weeks? You've got to be
kidding me. I'm here to get Mike,
then we're out of here -- pronto!

MIN
And how do you propose to do
that? Are you just going to
waltz into hive central, walk up
to the Tall Man and say, "Do you
think I could have Mike back,
huh, please?"

Reggie looks down and shakes his head and begins to turn
away.

REGGIE
Man, this is horseshi. . .

Min grabs Reggie's shoulder and interrupts him in mid
sentence.

MIN

Look, if you want your friend back, you're going to have to take him, and it's not going to be easy. You're going to need the skills I am going to teach you for even half a chance of saving Mike.

REGGIE

Why do you need me? If you're so tough then why can't you just get him yourself?

Sam and Cam laugh in the background.

MIN

Don't you get it yet, human? What you're looking at is only a projection of what was once my mortal form. Didn't Jody tell you never to trust what you see?

Min changes into a sphere right in front of Reggie's eyes. The orb flies above Reggie's head and then disappears.

As Reggie looks around, Min's mortal form appears behind him and taps him on the shoulder. Startled, Reggie turns around.

MIN (CONT'D)

See what I mean?

Reg takes a couple of steps back as Sam and Cam continue laughing and give each other a high five.

MIN (CONT'D)

In this state we can only transmit waves, such as light.

Min turns and looks at a rock formation on the other side of the chamber.

Once his eyes are fixed on the formation, red beams emit from his eyes and destroy the formation.

Reggie cringes from the explosion.

SAM

Or sound.

Reggie covers his ears as the cavern fills with an excruciatingly high pitched sound.

CAM

Or brain.

Two bikini clad blondes appear and walk up to Reg. Reg smiles as they begin to caress him.

Min scowls at Cam.

MIN

Knock it off!

CAM

Sorry boss.

The two girls disappear and Reggie is left holding air.

MIN

Wave manipulation is easy for us. Handling solid objects, well that's a different story. We can only influence matter to a certain degree, and even then without precision or dexterity. Besides, how can we use a weapon that destroys spheres? We too are spheres. That is why we need you, Bannister, and your flesh and bones, to wield the weapon that will destroy your Tall Man once and for all.

REGGIE

My Tall Man? That's what you meant by Savior. You guys brought my ass here to kill the Tall Man. Well, forget it -- it can't be done. Believe me, we've tried. Besides, he ain't my Tall Man.

MIN

He is now! Look, Bannister, I know you failed to kill him, several times. But that was in your dimension. Here you have a chance, a chance to kill the fuck once and for all. That is, kill him before he kills you.

REGGIE

Kill the Tall Man? There's nothing I'd rather do more than to snuff out that tall bastard for good.

MIN

Then do it! If you want to save your friend, you must kill the Tall Man.

SAM

And we're gonna help ya do it.

CAM

Fuckin' eh right we will.

MIN

But first, we must build up your strength, balance and endurance. Only then will you be able to use your new weapon.

REGGIE

New weapon?

Reg looks around for his shotgun, but it is nowhere in sight.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

What new weapon? And where the Hell's my shotgun?

SAM

(sarcastically)
Shotgun? Please.

CAM

Dude! What good do ya think buck shots will do ya here?

SAM

In this gravity the rounds would travel about 20 feet and then fall to the ground.

REGGIE

Yeah, but I'm still gonna miss that old hog leg of mine. It saved my ass more times than I can remember.

MIN

Don't worry, you shall be reunited with your shotgun soon. Right now it's being modified.

REGGIE

Modified?

CAM
Yeah, man, into a souped up,
ass kickin', widow makin',
heartbreakin'. . .

MIN
Enough!

CAM
Sorry, man.

Min turns to Reg.

MIN
Are you ready to begin your
training, Reggie Bannister?

REGGIE
I was born ready, Min.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Cam and Sam helping Reggie stretch
- B) Reggie doing jumping jacks.
- C) Reggie doing pushups.
- D) Sam and Cam hold Reggie down while Min force feeds him Gugga.
- E) Reggie running in place.
- F) Reggie doing squats while holding a stalagmite behind his neck.
- G) Reggie doing pushups while Min sits on his back.
- H) Min feeding Reggie Gugga.
- I) Reggie doing sit ups.
- J) Reggie wielding the stalagmite.
- K) Reggie doing handstand pushups.
- L) Reggie eating Gugga on his own.
- M) Reggie strikes stalagmite against rock and both shatter into pieces.

MIN

I think you may be ready. Come on, Bannister. Follow me.

REGGIE

Where're we going?

MIN

To get your weapon.

INT. FREE SECTOR ALPHA - FORGE - DAY

Reggie follows Min down to the forge, where Jody and the others are overseeing the work of their captured drones.

After the drones mine the ore it is taken to the smelting cauldrons. Once the ore is smelted, it is poured into stone casts.

One of the drones turns and walks toward Reg.

REGGIE

What the -- dwarves!

Reg picks up a heavy rock and turns to smash the drone with it. As he lifts the rock overhead, a voice cries out to him.

JODY

No, Reg, no. These drones are on our side. They won't hurt you.

REGGIE

You've got to be kidding?

JODY

No, man. They work for us now. They're just puppets, no longer controlled by the Hive.

REGGIE

The Hive?

JODY

That's where the Tall Man has Mike.

RAE

That's where the Tall Man's masters are.

SHELBY

That's where you'll find the answers to all your questions.

REGGIE

Well then, I guess that's where
I have to go.

Jody motions to Shelby and Rae, as they spread apart, they reveal Reggie's new weapon, the SONIC DISRUPTER.

It is lying on a pedestal of stone. Light glistens off the three-foot silver tuning fork that has been grafted onto the end of the inverted V-cut barrels. The new attachment is made of the same material used to make spheres and Space Gates.

Reggie walks wide eyed over to his new weapon.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

I like!

Several shells lie next to the gun. The shells are also modified with a solid silver shot as big as a pinball.

Reg reaches down and picks up his new gun.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Man, this thing weighs a ton.

COB

It has to. You see, in order for the disruption to be effective against master and silver spheres alike, the decibel level must be in correlation with the wavelength. These factors are affected by the weight and dimensions of the fork. Now the vibrations. . .

JODY

Suffice it to say that you're holding one Hell of a ball buster.

Reg smiles as he wields the weapon.

REGGIE

How does this thing work?

JODY

You'll learn on the way. We have no time to waste. Ground Zero Space Gate is almost complete. If you want to save Mike and what's left of your world, we have to leave now.

REGGIE

The world? What the. . .

Sam and Cam each grab one of Reggie's arms.

SAM

We'll give you the low-down on the way, Reg.

CAM

Onward!

Jody leads Reg and his companions from the Forge to the cave's exit.

INT. HIVE CORE - DAY

The Tall Man and Tall Mike stand over the failing body of Jebediah Morningside. The Tall Man smiles down at Jebediah, then looks over at Mike, who's lying limp upon the chamber floor.

THE TALL MAN

I think it's time for you two to get acquainted.

The Tall Man motions his head toward Mike. Mike's body rises up and floats to where Jebediah is lying.

The Tall Man motions, again, and Mike's body falls to the floor next to Jebediah.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

Get to know him, boy, for soon he will be gone. And then, you will take his place.

The Tall Man and Tall Mike transform into spheres and exit the chamber, leaving Mike and Jebediah alone in the dimly lit room.

Mike pulls himself up toward Jebediah.

MIKE

(whispering)

Mister -- Mister Morningside? Can you hear me?

Jebediah doesn't respond.

Mike slumps down to a sitting position, next to Jebediah, and slips into unconsciousness.

EXT. RED PLANET - FREE SECTOR ENTRANCE - DAY

Jody, Reg and the others exit the cave. Cob instructs Reggie in the use of his newly modified weapon.

COB

So you see, Reg, striking the fork against a solid object, such as a rock or the like, will result in a wave strong enough to temporarily disorient any class of sphere. The harder the strike, the longer the affect.

REGGIE

Well that's all well and good, but I thought this thing could destroy the mothers.

COB

Oh absolutely it can. But I don't think you are strong enough to generate such a death wave manually. That's why we came up with a sure fire method for guaranteed lethal disruption.

Cob hands Reggie a refitted shotgun shell.

COB (CONT'D)

We've fitted these beauties with a solid, single shot. When fired, the projectile hits a strike plate and then bounces off to your side. The plate is fastened to the end of the barrels, and is connected to the base of the tuning fork.

Reggie breaks open the weapon. All four chambers are empty.

COB (CONT'D)

One shell blast will destroy all spheres within a twenty-five-foot radius. A two shell blast has a fifty-foot kill zone.

REGGIE

What about a four shell blast?

COB

That would eradicate any and all Hive forms far as the eye can see. But I wouldn't recommend trying it.
(MORE)

COB (CONT'D)
The resulting shock wave would probably kill you too.

REGGIE
Oh, great.

COB
Save the four blast as a last resort.

Cob hands Reggie the rest of the shells. Reg starts to load the weapon, but Cob stops him by putting a hand over the chamber openings.

COB (CONT'D)
Use them sparingly. We only found eight shells on your person, so you only have eight shots.

REGGIE
Eight? Shit!

COB
And don't load the weapon until you are ready to use it. A misfire could kill all of your new friends, namely me. So be careful.

Reg shoulders the weapon and pockets the shells.

COB (CONT'D)
And please remember to warn us beforehand when you are going to fire the disrupter. We will need ample time to find safe cover.

REGGIE
Okay, I think I got it.

COB
Oh by the way, make sure you. . .

Reggie abruptly interrupts Cob mid sentence.

REGGIE
I said I. . .

Reggie loses his footing and falls to the ground. The tuning fork section of his weapon strikes the ground.

A sonic wave is produced that immobilizes Jody and the others. They then transform into spheres and fall to the ground.

Cob's sphere lands next to Reggie and wobbles aimlessly about.

Reggie picks up Cob's sphere.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
What were you trying to tell me?

COB
(faintly)
To watch your step.

REGGIE
Oh yeah, thanks.

INT. HIVE CORE - DAY

Mike lies unconscious next to Jebediah's slab. The two are still alone in the chamber.

Mike awakens, as Jebediah begins to murmur.

JEBEDIAH
Mold. . .Stamp. . .Imprint. . .

Mike raises himself up and kneels next to Jebediah. Mike strains to decipher the old man's mumbling.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)
Time's up. . .Got to stop. . .

Mike moves closer to Jebediah's head.

MIKE
Are you talking to me? Mr.
Morningside, what are you
trying to say?

Jebediah regains consciousness. When he sees Mike, a look of recognition comes over his face.

JEBEDIAH
You!

MIKE
Me, what?

JEBEDIAH
You, you must not be.

Jebediah reaches up his hand and touches Mike.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

You are here! Then the end is upon us. The enemy of Man has won.

MIKE

No. . .No! He's taken too much already. There must be a way to stop him.

JEBEDIAH

Him? To whom do you refer, sir?

MIKE

To you! I'm sorry -- I mean the one we call the Tall Man.

JEBEDIAH

The Tall Man?

Jebediah laughs, then begins to wheeze and cough.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

Boy, you have a lot to learn.

The Overlord sphere hovering above Jebediah's head emits a loud, low rumbling sound which vibrates the connecting cords between itself and Jebediah.

The vibrations travel up and through the connectors that lead from the sphere to the vast darkness behind.

Mike shivers.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

First of all, your Tall Man is merely a puppet -- a marionette for the DARK ONES.

MIKE

The Dark Ones?

JEBEDIAH

Yes. I've always been fascinated with death, and what lies beyond. Eventually, I came to realize that death is not the end -- it's simply life in another dimension. What you call Heaven and Hell are only different planes of existence that lie in dimensions other than your own.

MIKE

So this place is another dimension? A dimension other than that of Earth?

JEBEDIAH

Exactly, young one.

Jebediah reaches out and grabs Mike's hand.

Mike jumps as he sees a flash of light.

INSERT - MRS. MORNINGSIDE

MRS. MORNINGSIDE laughing on porch.

BACK TO SCENE

JEBEDIAH

Life is but matter and energy. Our flesh is composed of these subatomic specks of life, as well as what we call our universe. My experiments led me to the conclusion that all matter and energy exist at different vibrational frequency levels, on the subatomic scale. These levels occupy the same space, but are totally separate from one another, each with its own unique harmony. The various harmonic levels are themselves entire universes that exist on varied dimensional planes. The dimensions contain their own particular range of frequencies -- its own harmony. So if you change your harmonic frequency, you would be instantaneously transported to the corresponding dimensional plane with the corresponding frequency range.

MIKE

Spare me the lecture. I barely passed Algebra. I was more of a gear-head.

Jebediah closes his eyes and sighs.

JEBEDIAH

Well, none of that really matters now. I used to fancy myself with thoughts of future renown, a great physicist such as the likes of Galileo Galilei and Sir Issac Newton. Yes, I would be famous for bringing Man closer to God! But alas, there shall be no history for me to be remembered in. It is just as well, for I would not be immortalized as Earth's benefactor, I would instead be branded as its executioner.

Jebediah squeezes hard on Mike's hand. Mike's mind goes into the mind of Jebediah.

Mike observes Jebediah's past.

MONTAGUE

- A) Jebediah as civil war doctor.
- B) Jebediah on porch, circa 1877.
- C) Jebediah in study.
- D) Jebediah powers up prototype Space Gate.

BACK TO SCENE

JEBEDIAH (V.O.)

So curious, so full of the desire to learn was I that even the thought of danger was non-existent. I longed to know more. . .More than any man had or would ever know -- unfortunately I got my wish.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. RED PLANET - DAY - 1877 A.D.

Mike observes as Jebediah Morningside comes through the dimension gate, for his first and only time, and arrives on the Red Planet. Jebediah, fighting the gravity and heat, slowly raises his head from the desert floor.

He sees several approaching forms. As these beings surround him, he is unable to see them clearly. They appear as dark, shadowy plasmatic entities devoid of form or structure.

As Jebediah attempts to make contact, he feels an excruciating pain in his head as the creatures psychically enter his mind.

Jebediah's entire life flashes before him, up to the point of his arrival on the alien planet. Jebediah collapses.

The figures advance upon Jebediah's body. They levitate the old man's body and carry it toward the rock formations in the distance.

JEBEDIAH'S POV - ROCK FORMATIONS - HIVE

The Hive.

END FLASHBACK

JUMP CUT TO:

REGGIE'S POV - ROCK FORMATIONS - HIVE

The Hive.

REGGIE

There it is, like Hell itself.

EXT. RED PLANET - DAY

Reggie, Jody and the others approach the outer edge of the Hive. Reg is laboring and showing fatigue.

Jody taps Reggie on the back. Reg turns, nods and stops to let the others pass.

Reggie sits and opens the flask he's been wearing round his neck. He raises the flask and drinks down some Gugga.

REGGIE

(sighing)

Yuck! Wonder how long does it take to acquire a taste for this zombie piss.

Reg takes another swig, then moves on to rejoin the others.

LATER

He spots his comrades, who are standing still with their backs against the wall.

As reaches the group, he is quickly grabbed by Cob.

COB
(softly)
SSSHHH!

REGGIE
(whispering)
What's going on?

COB
A work convoy is just ahead.
It's vital that we are not
sensed by the Masters.

REGGIE
Who are these Master guys?

COB
They're intermediaries between
the upper and lower casts. They
are the voice of the Overlords --
that's what we've come to call
them. The Overlords are the
physical extensions of Dark Ones.

REGGIE
The Dark Ones?

COB
Yes, the ones who have always
been, and always will be. They
are the collective consciousness
of the Overlords. The Overlords
usually stay in the Hive, whereas
the masters roam the wasteland.
And that's all for Red Planet 101.

REGGIE
All? That was a shit-load more
than I could ever want to know.

COB
Just suffice to say that the
Dark Ones are the evil behind
your Tall Man. They're the head
honchos, the main men, the. . .

REGGIE
I get it already!

COB
Anyway, the Dark Ones are the consciousness inside of the Overlord spheres. The Overlord spheres control the Master spheres, who in turn control the silver SOLDIER spheres, drones, CHANGELINGS, etc.

REGGIE
Changelings? All right -- I'll bite. What the Hell is a changeling?

COB
Later. As for now shut up and listen. The Master spheres are extensions of the Overlords. If only one Master discovers the presence of any one of us rebels, it will be able to take control of that rebel sphere and make it once more a pawn of the Dark Ones.

REGGIE
Then you'd be slaves again -- like the other silver spheres.

COB
Yes. But more important, we'll be your enemy. If we fall under their dominion, you must destroy us, just like you would do to any other silver sphere.

REGGIE
But can't I. . .

COB
No you can't. Your task is too important. Do not jeopardize it with silly sentiment. The future of your world depends on the success of your mission.

Several "ssshhh" sounds come from the front of the line.

Jody is point man at the end of the trench. He motions to the others that the drone work party has stopped right where the trench rises to meet the desert floor. The enemy is right around the corner.

Several gold Master spheres hover at the exit. The Drones become agitated, as one sphere laser scans the area.

JODY

Back!

All of Jody's comrades revert back into sphere form.

They retreat past Reggie and disappear into the distance, leaving Reggie far behind.

JODY (CONT'D)

(flying past)

Give 'em Hell, Reg!

COB

(flying past)

Waste the fucks!

Reggie reaches into his pocket and retrieves two shells. He loads the shells, adjusts his Bolo tie and stands up.

The lead Master sphere scans the area with a laser. The sphere approaches slowly, with its scan sweeping back and forth.

Reg sees the approaching enemy makes the sign of the cross.

REGGIE

I sure hope this pig iron works
on these big mothers.

Reggie jumps out from around the corner of the curved trench. He lifts his weapon and aims it at the Master sphere, whose laser scan has just scanned Reg.

The Sphere stops, then begins to narrow its beam straight at Reggie. As he feels the heat increase from the narrowing beam of light, Reg pulls the trigger and ignites both shells. The sphere's laser disengages as Reggie is jolted back from the recoil of the weapon.

Instantaneously after the recoil, Reggie's weapon produces a strong vibration accompanied by an almost deafening sound. The Master sphere starts to vibrate, then explodes violently. The concussion from the explosion knocks Reggie back, but he quickly regains his footing.

Reg reloads his weapon with two more shells, and charges out of the trench.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Fuck! This pig iron kicks some
serious ass!

As Reggie exits the trench, he is confronted by the remaining Master spheres. The spheres are disoriented, but are still intact and functional.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh shit!

Reg dives to the ground as the Masters fire their lasers. The laser blasts miss wildly, due to the spheres' disorientation, but their aim improves with every shot.

Reggie takes cover behind a rock formation, regroups, then fires his weapon. The gold spheres freeze, then violently explode. Reg is knocked down from the explosion.

After a few moments, Reggie arises and dusts himself off.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Well, that wasn't so. . .

Before he finishes his sentence, Reggie notices about a dozen angry worker drones slowly moving toward him.

He looks down at his empty weapon, then frantically around for Jody and the others.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Aaah, Cob? Jody? Anybody?

INT. HIVE CORE - DAY

Jebediah is still holding Mike's hand, showing him the past.

JEBEDIAH

Look, look young one. Observe how my gateway to knowledge became a doorway to Hell.

FLASHBACK:

INT. HIVE CORE CORRIDOR - DAY - 1877 A.D.

The Dark Ones carry Jebediah into the innermost part of the Hive. Darkness envelops them all as they enter.

INT. HIVE CORE - DAY

When the doorway closes behind them, the chamber's boundaries become undone and the Core seems to stretch out forever.

The Dark Ones place Jebediah's body atop a stone slab that resembles an altar. The slab seems to be the only thing within the Core, besides the human captive.

The Dark Ones encircle Jebediah. A bright light envelops the old man and the slab becomes luminous. The Dark Ones began to make a low pulsating sound.

As their moan gets louder and louder, an appendage comes down toward Jebediah's forehead. The appendage appears to be both organic and mechanical. The source of the appendage cannot be determined as it descends from the darkness above.

When the bottom end reaches close proximity to Jebediah's forehead, a drill bit type device emerges from the opening and starts to spin. The appendage drills a large hole in Jebediah's forehead, exposing a portion of his brain. The drill bit retracts back into to appendage.

The Dark Ones stop their moaning as appendages emerge from each of their heads. Their appendages join together and form a pulsating sack over Jebediah's slab.

Thin colorless strands emerge from the sack and move toward the opening drilled in the old man's head. The strands enter the opening and envelope Jebediah's brain.

Once enveloped, Jebediah's brain becomes one with the Dark Ones. He briefly sees what they see and knows what they know. Jebediah learns that these creatures are destroyers of worlds, plundering a planet's resources and enslaving any indigenous species they deem useful as slaves.

Hundreds of conquered worlds flash before Jebediah's mind's eye, ending with this one -- the Red Planet. This was the last planet left within this dimension for the Dark Ones to plunder.

Jebediah's vision ends abruptly as the Dark Ones start to moan again. The old man begins to experience the entirety of his life -- his thoughts, sensory input and feelings beginning with his birth.

Jebediah realizes that as he watches his life flash before his eyes the Dark Ones are also watching, and extracting each thought, image and feeling generated by the old man.

As the moaning increases in decibel and tempo, so also increases the passage and absorption of Jebediah's life's events.

The moaning continues to increase and heighten almost to the point of ecstasy, and then it stops abruptly at the image of Jebediah's Space Gate.

Silence and darkness envelope the chamber.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

JEBEDIAH

That's when I realized what they wanted -- that's when I knew that my advances in harmonics had given the Earth a death sentence. Mankind now faced annihilation because of my hunger for glory and thirst for recognition. This fate was not meant to befall Man. I am the catalyst, the Judas, the instrument of destruction for not only our world, but also for every life form in our dimension.

MIKE

You shouldn't torture yourself like this. You were only. . .

JEBEDIAH

Don't you see -- the Dark Ones were dying. They had no more worlds to plunder. It would have been only a matter of time before they died out completely. My arrival saved them by providing a new universe for their feasting.

The old man looks deep into Mike's eyes.

JEBEDIAH (CONT'D)

We are all responsible for our actions. We are the authors of our fates. The sooner you accept this, the sooner you will realize what you must do.

MIKE

I already know what I have to do, I think. What I don't know is how do I do it?

JEBEDIAH

A friend of yours is on his way. It is he that will give you the means to fulfill your end.

Mike has a vision of Reggie and the others.

MIKE

Reggie -- he's here! He came!
I can see him. I can see him
in my mind. My brother Jody is
with him, and some others too.

JEBEDIAH

You must go with them. You must
leave this place before you
become -- like me.

EXT. RED PLANET - DAY

Reggie runs from a horde a worker DWARVES. He goes down a
trail that leads to a dead end.

REGGIE

Shit! Well I hope this thing
swings as good as it stings.

Reggie grasps the stock and raises his weapon up like a
baseball bat.

Just as he is about to take a swing at the nearest dwarf, a
laser fires at the advancing horde and destroys the lead
drone.

The dwarves stop and turn to see where the laser blast came
from, and see several spheres rapidly approaching.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Alright! Here comes the air
support.

Jody and his team quickly destroy all of the dwarves.

Afterwards, they transmute back into sapient form and regroup
with Reggie.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Boy am I glad to see you guys. What
took you so long anyway?

JODY

We had to get a safe distance
away from your disrupter. If
we didn't, we might have been
destroyed as well.

COB

Come on! We don't have much time. Zero hour is getting closer.

Jody looks at Cob, then down for a couple of seconds. The expression on his face turns grim.

Jody straightens up, looks at Reggie and smiles.

JODY

Come on, Reg. Let's haul ass!

Reggie, Jody and the others continue their journey through the wasteland.

As they draw closer to the Hive, Reggie's mind hears Mike calling for him. Mike is begging Reg to hurry because his time is running out.

EXT. RED PLANET - GROUND ZERO - DUSK

Reggie and his comrades come within sight of the entrance to the Hive. They also come within sight of hundreds of workers. Reggie and the others quickly take cover.

The drones are trudging in tandem back and forth from the Hive. Their activity involves two enormous mounds of refined ore that measure fifty feet around and twenty feet high.

The piles stand fifty yards apart, and a hundred yards in front of the entrance to the Hive. The drones emerge from the Hive, heap more metal onto the mounds, and then disappear back into the Hive.

REGGIE

Well, this party's over before it begun. There's no way in Hell we can sneak past all those little fucks.

COB

Just have a little patience, and faith. We'll just lay low awhile until an opportunity presents itself.

REGGIE

Yeah, and if my grandmother had wheels she'd be a wagon.

Several hours pass as Reg and the others watch the drones toil at their undertaking.

Finally the last dwarf disappears into the Hive and the coast becomes clear.

JODY
C'mon you guys. This is where
the fun begins.

Jody, Reggie and the others make their way towards the entrance to the Hive.

EXT. RED PLANET - HIVE ENTRANCE - DAWN

The entrance is dark and foreboding. The faint hum of Space Gate vibration is heard coming from within the Hive.

Reggie and Jody slowly approach the entryway.

REGGIE
So Jody, age before beauty.

JODY
Not this time, buddy. You're our
point man. You have to clear the
way for the rest of us.

Reggie nods and readies his weapon. Then he looks into the darkness that waits before him.

REGGIE
Well, I guess it's time to meet
my mother drunk.

Reggie enters the hive.

INT. HIVE MAIN CHAMBER - DAWN

Reggie finds himself in complete darkness. He cannot see the walls, ceiling or even the ground upon which he is standing. It seems that he is walking through empty space.

Reg notices a dim light far in the distance. He heads towards the light.

After what seems like an eternity, Reggie reaches the entrance to a dimly lit hall. He looks around, but sees no one, neither friend nor foe.

Reggie slowly enters the chamber.

INT. HIVE TROPHY CHAMBER - DAWN

Reg notices openings on both sides of the walls. Above the openings are markers with alien inscriptions.

Inside the openings are small Space Gates, and suspended within the gates are the shrunken remains of entire worlds that were plundered by the Dark Ones.

Reggie stops to look closer at one of the decimated worlds. As he nears the gate Reg is yanked partially through the dimensional porthole.

In an instant, Reggie experiences the horror and destruction brought upon this alien world by the Dark Ones. The devastation ended with the enslavement of the planet's total population, and then the destruction of the planet itself. The intensity of the vision takes Reg to the brink of madness.

Reggie's screams bring Jody and the others. Jody and Cob grab Reg's waist and pull him back through the gate. Reggie drops to the floor, still screaming hysterically.

After awhile Jody manages to calm Reg down.

REGGIE

Holy Shit! What in the Hell was that?

COB

You got too close to one of the Dark Ones' trophies.

REGGIE

Trophies? You mean that horror show I just saw was some sick fuck's idea of a trophy?

COB

What you saw was decimated remains of one of the worlds they've plundered.

Cob pauses, then looks straight into Reggie's eyes.

COB (CONT'D)

And your Earth will be their next trophy if you don't move your ass and lead on.

Reggie looks at Jody, then slowly shakes his head in disbelief and desperation.

REGGIE

You mean they can shrink down a whole planet -- like they shrink down corpses into dwarves? Shit! But what about that psycho slide show I just saw -- what the Hell was that?

COB

That was a holographic cerebral interface chronicling the enslavement of that planet by the Dark Ones.

Reggie gives Cob a puzzled look.

COB (CONT'D)

In other words, the old dudes record all of their conquests and get off by reliving them over and over and. . .

REGGIE

Okay, I get the point. But I'll tell you something -- it'll be a cold day in Hell before I let these bastards turn my world into a fucking loving cup.

Reg loads all four barrels and readies his weapon.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Come on, guys. It's time to bust some balls -- present company excluded.

Reg, Jody and the others approach the entrance to the next chamber. They stare inside the dimly lit cavern.

The ceiling and floor are covered with stalactites and stalagmites, but these formations appear more organic than mineral.

INT. HIVE OUTER CORE - DAY

They enter the Outer Core. As Reggie leads, Jody, Cob and the others follow cautiously behind.

The cavern fills with the sound of activated spheres.

COB

Enemy approaching! Suit up!

All of the soldiers morph into sphere form except for Jody and Cob.

Reggie raises his weapon, but Jody pushes it back down.

JODY

No Reg, this is our fight.
Besides, you can't shoot off
your wad with us around or
you'll take us out too.

The sound of the approaching spheres grows louder.

COB

They're almost on top of us!

Jody grabs Reg's shoulder with one hand, and points to the Hive Core entrance with the other.

JODY

There's your path, Reg.

The enemy spheres enter the Outer Core through multiple entrance points, and pause briefly as they gather into a horde of hovering silver orbs.

The lead sphere is a large control sphere. It locks its targeting cross hairs on Reggie.

COB

Hit It!

Cob morphs into a sphere, while Jody shoves Reggie toward the Hive Core entrance.

JODY

Help Mike, Reg. Save him!

As Reggie looks back, Jody morphs and joins his comrades in battle.

Jody and Cob simultaneously laser strike the lead control sphere, destroying it before it could fire upon Reggie.

REGGIE

Good luck, my friends.

Reg runs toward the exit. He ducks down to avoid detection from several enemy spheres along the way.

When he reaches the Hive Core corridor, Reggie stops to take one last look at his comrades.

As Reg watches his friends, two pale hands reach out from the dark opening behind him. The hands grab Reggie around the mouth and waist, and then pull him through the entrance.

INT. HIVE CORE CORRIDOR - DUSK

Reggie breaks the grip of his captor, and then aims his weapon toward his attacker. A voice cries out to Reggie.

MIKE

Wait Reg, it's me, Mike!

REGGIE

Mike? Is that you?

MIKE

Yeah, at least the last time I checked.

Mike grabs and hugs Reggie.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Reg, you made it! I knew you would!

REGGIE

(laughing)

Well we don't have time to swap spit. We have to go back to help Jody and the guys.

MIKE

That can wait, Reg. First I have to show you something.

REGGIE

Look, they really need our help.

MIKE

They can take care of themselves. But right now Reg, there's something you really need to see -- right now.

Reggie looks closely at Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Trust me. I need you to come.

Reggie turns to follow Mike. He leads Reg deeper and deeper through the long, dark passage.

They occasionally pass spheres and worker drones, but they seem to pay no mind to Reg or Mike.

Mike increases his lead as they continue. Reg feels warm and fatigued.

REGGIE
Hey, slow down Mike. I can barely see to keep up with you.

Reggie loses sight of Mike completely, and is left alone in darkness. He feels it getting hotter.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Mike. Where'd you go?

MIKE
(faintly)
I'm over here, Reg. Hurry up.

Reggie approaches Mike's voice. Reggie wipes the sweat from his brow. The heat is increasing.

INT. HIVE CORE - NIGHT

Reggie enters the Hive's Core.

He sees the faint outline of someone standing a slight distance in front of him. This tall, dark figure has its back toward Reg.

A familiar voice calls out.

TALL MIKE
I hope you've enjoyed the game,
Reg.

Tall Mike turns to face Reggie.

Tall Mike is wearing a suit similar to the Tall Man's. He is holding a sphere in his right hand. His eyes are the color of the silver spheres. Tall Mike stands about six feet and six inches tall, dwarfing Reg.

TALL MIKE (CONT'D)
Because it's about to come to
an end.

Reggie screams. Tall Mike reaches out with his left hand and grabs Reg by the throat. Reggie struggles violently as Tall Mike lifts him up off of his feet. Reggie loses grip of his weapon, and it falls to the ground.

Tall Mike moves his sphere toward Reggie's head and activates the drill. Reg wrestles and curses as Tall Mike moves the sphere closer and closer. Tall Mike deactivates the sphere's drill just before it makes contact with Reggie's skull.

TALL MIKE (CONT'D)

No, not yet. We're going to
reward you for making it this far.
All of your questions we shall
now answer.

Tall Mike turns and lowers Reggie to the floor. He motions his head upwards, and light emits from an unseen source. The light increases in intensity.

Reggie sees Mike and Jebediah Morningside lying on slabs, both wired with various tubes and wires that lead up to Overlord spheres. The Tall Man is standing between the two, with his eyes closed and his arms outstretched over them.

REGGIE

My God! Mike? What have they
done to you?

Reggie attempts to move toward Mike, but is held back by Tall Mike. Reg turns to curse Tall Mike, who answers only with a slight grin.

Tall Mike looks toward the Tall Man, and Reggie does the same. The Tall Man opens his eyes and looks at Reg. He cracks a slight grin, lowers his arms and looks straight into Reggie's eyes.

THE TALL MAN

Welcome, little man, to the
end of our game.

INT. HIVE OUTER CORE - NIGHT

Jody, Cob, Shel and Min are the only free sector spheres left alive. They are outnumbered five to one by silver soldier spheres.

The soldier spheres regroup on the far side of the chamber.

Jody and his comrades regroup near the corridor to the Hive Core. All four morph back into sapient form.

JODY

Well guys, we gave em' Hell,
but I think they have us.

MIN

Bullshit, man! I didn't wait all this time and come all this way just to punk out now.

JODY

Okay mister bad ass. How do you suggest we get outta this deep shit we're in?

MIN

We don't, at least not all of us.

Min looks at Shelby. She looks down, then back up at Min and nods.

COB

Aw shit, Min!

Jody grabs Min's arm.

JODY

Min? C'mon, man. What do you think you're doing?

MIN

I'm doing what has to be done. Coming, Shel?

Min reaches out his hand toward Shelby. She takes his hand, and looks at Jody and Cob.

SHELBY

Go on, you two. We've got your back.

Jody looks to the ground and shakes his head.

COB

Come on, boss. There's no other way to help Mike and Reg.

Shelby kisses Jody, then Cob. Min hugs Cob and Jody.

JODY

Goodbye, my friends.

Jody enters the Hive Core corridor.

COB

See ya on the other side!

Cob enters the Hive Core corridor. Min and Shel watch their comrades disappear into the darkness.

Shel and Min turn to look at one another, then turn toward the enemy spheres hovering in the distance. They join hands, and then run toward their awaiting foes.

The silver spheres accelerate toward the approaching duo. Shelby and Min morph into sphere form and split up, allowing the enemy horde to fly between them.

Shel and Min fly straight for each other. They collide in the middle of the silver sphere swarm.

Shel and Min explode. Their explosion causes spheres close by to ignite, resulting in a chain reaction of explosions that engulfs the entire Outer Core.

INT. HIVE CORE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jody and Cob react to the explosion behind them, and then continue on. They reach the entrance to the Hive Core.

JODY

After you.

COB

Uh uh. You're the boss -- you lead and I'll follow.

The two face each other, and then turn toward the entrance to the Hive's Core.

They see a dim light emanating from within. Jody and Cob hear voices coming from the source of the illumination.

Cob notices Reggie's gun lying on the ground just beyond the entrance. He points to the weapon and starts to speak. Jody quickly grabs Cob and covers his mouth with his free hand.

INT. HIVE CORE - NIGHT

The Tall Man looks at Tall Mike, and then starts to turn toward the entrance where Jody and Cob are hiding.

Reggie moves his eyes toward where the Tall Man is turning. Reg catches a glimpse of Jody and Cob peeking from behind the entryway. He turns quickly back to curse the Tall Man.

REGGIE

You carbon copy, motherfuckin'
piece of shit! What have you
done to Mike?

The Tall Man stops mid turn, and then turns back toward Reg. He grins, and walks slowly toward the slab Mike is lying upon.

THE TALL MAN

You want to know what we did to
him, little man? What we "did
to him" was done a long time
ago.

The Tall Man reaches Mike's slab. He looks down at him, and then bends over to caress Mike's hair.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

We could tell that Mike was
special the first time we saw him,
back in that little town of yours.
He was young, but possessed an
old soul. A soul that has been
wised by the greatest of all
teachers -- pain and suffering.

The Tall Man looks up at Reg, then walks toward him.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

But there was something else
here. Something fresh, something
new. It was guilt. His guilt
beckoned us, appealing to our
senses like the smell of fresh
baked bread. We could not resist.

REGGIE

Enough of the horse shit! Get
to the point!

THE TALL MAN

Patience, ice cream man. You
should not rush to find truth --
for when you find it, it's yours
and you cannot give it back.

REGGIE

Spare me the fortune cookie and
tell me, once and for all old man,
or whatever you are, what did you
do to Mike?

The Tall Man grins and moves closer toward Reggie.

THE TALL MAN

"Whatever you are", that's a more accurate description of us than "old man". But enough suspense.

The Tall Man turns and walks back toward Mike.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

You want to know what happened to the boy. The truth is that boy himself is responsible for what happened, all those years ago.

The Tall Man reaches Mike's slab and looks down at him.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

We arrived just after it had happened. The wheels were still spinning. Apart from that, the only other movement in the wreck was that of the driver -- a young boy. The boy's head was injured, exposing the brain. Next to the boy lay his dead older brother.

REGGIE

My God, you're talking about -- Mike and Jody. Jody's accident -- when he died -- you mean. . .

THE TALL MAN

Yes, that is exactly what we mean. The boy Mike was driving the car when the accident occurred -- swerving to avoid running over a dog as we recall.

The Tall Man looks back over at Reg and smirks.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

By the by, we're glad to see you are paying attention. It makes things so much easier.

Reggie lunges at The Tall Man, but Tall Mike holds him back.

The lights brighten, exposing more of the Hive's Core. Reggie looks up and sees three massive Overlord Spheres, one hovering over himself and Tall Mike, one above The Tall Man, and one above Mike and Jebediah.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

Now, as we were saying, the older one was already dead -- just a piece of meat waiting for us to process. But the other, the boy with the old soul, was a fine candidate for vessel replacement.

The Tall Man motions toward Jebediah.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

This is the vessel we were using at the time. It was becoming apparent to us that, even in it's state of reduced metabolism, it would not last indefinitely. We needed another vessel -- a new host instrument.

The Tall Man looks directly at Mike, and grins. Mike's eyes are wide and fixed on the Tall Man.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)

And we found one. We brought him back to the mortuary for an enhancement. We grafted some sphere material onto a portion of his cerebral cortex. This inorganic material will coalesce with the surrounding macrobiotic matter. As it grows, the material's properties will enhance the boy's inert psychic prowess and intellect. The material will continue to grow until it develops into a sphere. The brain matter encased within the sphere will be a separate entity possessing its own consciousness. This is the component that will join in union with us. As for the boy's residual matter -- it will be used as a template to make new emissaries.

The Tall Man looks over at Tall Mike, who smiles back.

REGGIE

You bastard. You think I'm gonna let you get away with this?

THE TALL MAN

But we have gotten away with it, little man. And alas, the game
(MORE)

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)
is over. But don't you worry,
we're not going to kill you.
Since you and the boy work so
well together, we decided not
to break up such a good team.

REGGIE
What? So you're letting us go?

THE TALL MAN
Not exactly.

Tall Mike shoves Reggie toward the Outer Core passage.

Jody and Cob duck out of site as Tall Mike and Reggie
approach.

THE TALL MAN (CONT'D)
Good bye, ice cream man.

Tall Mike and Reg exit toward the Outer Core.

INT. HIVE OUTER CORE - NIGHT

Tall Mike guides Reggie into the Outer Core.

REGGIE
Where are we going, Mike?
And what did he mean by not
splitting up a good team?

TALL MIKE
We said you will not be killed.
You will be processed instead.

REGGIE
Processed? Wait a -- you mean
sticking my brain in a Christmas
tree ornament and shrinking my
ass into a midget?

TALL MIKE
Crudely put, but fundamentally
accurate.

REGGIE
Fuck that plan, man!

Reggie breaks free from Tall Mike's grasp. He turns and
attempts to strike.

Tall Mike motions his head, freezing Reggie in his tracks. He
tilts his head upwards, raising Reg up into the air.

Reg, helplessly hovering in mid air, cries out in pain as Tall Mike hones his stare, causing Reggie's body to constrict and contort.

TALL MIKE

Foolish man, you are no match
for us. You never were.

Tall Mike raises Reg higher.

TALL MIKE (CONT'D)

You're nothing more than an
annoyance. This will soon change,
though, when we've changed you
into our lapdog. Overall it will be
an improvement over your present
disposition.

Jody and Cob jump out of hiding, and position themselves behind Tall Mike.

Jody morphs into sphere form and soars toward Tall Mike.

Cob calls out.

COB

Hey, chump! Look behind you!

Tall Mike turns around. Jody's sphere ejects his double pronged blade and impales Tall Mike's skull. Tall Mike grabs the sphere and tries to pull it out. Jody engages the drill and bores into Tall Mike's forehead.

Reggie remains suspended and in pain as Tall Mike struggles to pull out Jody's sphere, which is now spewing out yellow Gugga substance from its far end.

Tall Mike pulls the sphere out, and clenches it in his right hand.

TALL MIKE

Nice try, but in this class you
don't get points for effort.

Tall Mike clutches Jody's sphere with both hands and squeezes firmly. Reggie, hovering in pain, shakes his head as he watches Tall Mike attempt to crush Jody.

Cob turns his head away, then notices Reggie's gun lying on the cavern floor. He rushes over to the weapon and tries to pick it up, but his hands pass through the object.

Cob makes several more attempts, but is unable to pick up the weapon with his hands.

COB

Wait a minute. Calm down
and focus.

Cob pauses and collects his himself. He stands up straight and focuses his gaze upon the gun, which rises up slowly to hover at Cob's midsection.

Cob looks toward his friends, then yells a warning.

COB (CONT'D)

Heads up!

Cob quickly motions his head, hurling the heavy weapon toward the trio. Tall Mike turns to see the disrupter tumbling through the air toward him.

Reggie's gun strikes the cavern floor, fork end first. The resulting sound wave echoes throughout the Outer Core.

Reggie falls to the ground. Tall Mike, still grasping Jody's sphere, becomes motionless. Cob morphs into sphere form and drops to the ground.

Reggie recovers, stands up, and dusts himself off. He picks up his gun and looks at Tall Mike, who is still immobile. Reggie turns toward Cob, whose sphere lies motionless.

Reggie senses movement in the corner of his eye. Tall Mike is starting to move. Reggie strikes the fork end of his disrupter against the cavern wall. Tall Mike is rendered inoperative.

REGGIE

Hell! This ain't gonna cut it.
What I need is a plan.

Reggie looks toward the entrance to the Hive Core.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

There's only one way to end
this shit.

Reggie takes Jody out of Tall Mike's hands, and puts him in his pocket. He picks up Cob and places him in his other pocket.

Reggie breaks open his weapon, loads ammo into all four chambers, then stares into the dark void of the Hive Core.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

For my family, for my friends,
for my world -- here comes the
Regman!

Reggie heads towards the Hive Core.

INT. HIVE CORE - DAWN

Reggie enters. He creeps slowly toward the slabs upon which Mike and Jebediah lay.

The Tall Man is standing over Jebediah's slab. With a motion of his head, the Tall Man causes the tubes and wires to disconnect from Jebediah and retract up into the huge black sphere above him.

Jebediah wheezes as the sphere above him slowly departs, disappearing toward the center of the Core. The Tall Man sneers at Jebediah.

THE TALL MAN

Alas, old man, your time is over. The boy will inherit your legacy of ruin, while you will proceed to oblivion.

Reggie jumps up out of the shadows and directly addresses the Tall Man.

REGGIE

Sorry, asshole, but I'm about to piss on your parade.

As the Tall Man looks at Reggie, Tall Mike approaches Reg from behind. The Tall Man scowls as Reggie points his weapon toward the Overlord Sphere hovering above Mike's slab.

THE TALL MAN

You think you've won, human? Even if you do manage to get the boy out of here, it would still serve our purpose. We will prevail, we always do.

REGGIE

Yeah? Well in the meantime, suck on this, scum wad.

Reggie steadies his weapon and takes aim. Just as Tall Mike is about to grab him from behind, Reggie fires all four barrels at once.

The concussion knocks Reg to the ground. The Tall Man's head explodes violently, as does Tall Mike's.

The Overlord Sphere fractures and falls to the ground. Dark, ghostly figures emerge, moaning deeply as they slither toward the heart of the Core.

Reggie looks on in disgust, then runs over to Mike and pulls out the tubes and wires that had connected him to the Overlord Sphere.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Mike. Mike buddy. It's me, Reg.
I've come to take you back home.

The disrupter blast has affected the stability of the entire Hive. The ground begins to quake and stalactites start to loosen.

Mike, disoriented, looks up at Reggie and smiles.

MIKE

Reg? Reggie! I knew you'd make it.

REGGIE

You bet your ass I made it.
Now, let's make it the Hell
out of here.

After unhooking the remaining wires and tubes from Mike, Reggie takes off his belt, fastens it to the ends of his gun and slings the weapon over his shoulder. Then he picks up Mike and turns to leave.

MIKE

Wait. Wait! We can't leave yet.
There's one last thing we have
to do.

Mike looks down at Jebediah Morningside lying upon his slab. Jebediah looks back up at Mike.

JEBEDIAH

He's right. You can't leave me
here - alive that is. You must
kill me to stop the Tall Man
once and for all.

REGGIE

But can't we just. . .

JEBEDIAH

No! You must do this. Actually,
you'll be doing me a service.

Reggie looks helplessly at Mike.

MIKE

You have to do it, Reg.

Reggie kneels down and lays Mike upon the ground. He stands back up and takes his weapon from around his shoulder.

Jebediah closes his eyes as Reggie raises his gun barrel high into the air. Mike shuts his eyes and turns away.

REGGIE

God forgive me.

Reggie strikes Jebediah's head, crushing it beyond recognition. He steps back, shaking his head.

Reggie drops the disrupter, kneels down and picks up Mike. He starts for the Core exit. Mike stops him.

MIKE

Don't forget the gun. We'll need it before this night's over.

REGGIE

Forget it. I've used up all my ammo.

MIKE

Just bring it anyway.

Mike smiles up at Reggie.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Trust me, Reg.

Reggie sighs, picks up the gun and slings it over his shoulder.

The dull moans from the midst of the Core grow in intensity, and the chamber illumination begins to dim.

REGGIE

We're outta here -- now!

Reggie heads for the Core exit, carrying Mike in his arms, and with Jody's and Cob's spheres in his front pockets.

INT. HIVE OUTER CORE - DAWN

Reg increases his pace as the moaning and shaking intensify. He dodges debris from the sphere battle while stalactites crash to the ground around them.

Reggie looks back to see the Inner Core enveloped in complete darkness, a darkness that is encroaching into the Outer Core. As they near the Outer Core exit, the darkness has almost caught up to them.

INT. HIVE TROPHY CHAMBER - DAWN

The Hive is becoming more and more unstable. The shaking increases as Reggie enters the trophy chamber.

As Reggie runs past them, the Space Gates and their planet vestiges implode along the cavern walls. The implosions, tremors and falling stalactites hinder Reggie's progress as he nears the chamber exit.

The encroaching darkness is catching up to Reg and his companions.

INT. HIVE MAIN CHAMBER - DAWN

Reggie stumbles and falls into the main chamber; the spheres are flung from his pockets as he drops Mike to the ground.

Reggie looks up and sees the Hive main exit, which is about five hundred yards directly in front of him.

Reg also sees hundreds of crazed drones to his left and to his right. Most of them brandishing mining tools as makeshift weapons.

REGGIE

Oh shit! Ah, guys -- guys!

Jody and Min morph back to sapient mode. They're both dazed and confused. Mike awakens and raises his head.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

I could do with a little help here.

The drones slowly advance, firmly clutching the ad hoc weaponry. Their incensed grunts increase in intensity with every step.

Cob comes to his senses and looks around.

COB

Okay people, lets get back on
The clock. The way out of here
is about half a click straight
ahead.

REGGIE

Sounds good, but in case you
haven't noticed, there's about
a thousand pissed off dwarves
getting ready to piss on our
parade.

COB

Don't worry about those little
fucks. We got you covered.

Cob looks over at Jody, smiles then winks.

COB (CONT'D)

I'm good to go. How about you?

JODY

Don't worry. I'll handle my
share.

Jody looks at Mike, then at Reggie.

JODY (CONT'D)

Oh, and Reg. Don't pay any
attention to us, no matter what
happens. Your only duty is to
get Mike out of here. See you
on the outside.

REGGIE

But, Jody wait a. . .

Jody morphs into sphere form and hovers towards the drones on
the right.

COB

No worries, mate. Just head
for the exit straight ahead.
We'll take care of the rest.
God speed.

Cob morphs and moves towards the drones on the left. Reggie
goes over to get Mike.

MIKE

I'm scared, Reg. I have the
feeling that we're not going
to make it out of here.

Reg looks around at the opposition, then looks back at his young friend.

REGGIE

Hey, now. What kind of talk is that? Of course we're going to make it out of here. We've made it this far, haven't we? I'm sure as Hell not gonna give up now, and neither are you.

Reggie picks up Mike and puts him over his free shoulder. Mike looks frightfully at the surrounding drones.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Hey, remember that song we used to sing together when you were four. I taught it to you the night of that huge electrical storm that knocked out the power. That song was the only thing that stopped you from crying. Yeah, you used to love that song. Do you still remember how it starts?

Mike closes his eyes, and then begins to softly sing.

MIKE

(singing)

Alas, my love, you do me wrong

To cast me off discourteously. . .

REGGIE

That's it, Mike. Now you just keep singing, and before you know it, I'll have us outta here.

Reggie nods towards Jody, then Cob. Suddenly, Reg makes a run for the Hive exit.

The Jody and Cob spheres engage the drones in an attempt to keep the escape route clear for Reggie and Mike. Dwarves shriek and crumple as they are slashed and gashed by Jody and Cob.

Reggie begins to buckle under the weight of Mike, who is still faintly singing. Amidst the slaughter, Reggie looks ahead and sees the Hive exit in the nearing distance.

As they reach within a couple hundred yards of the exit, Reg notices that Mike seems to be getting heavier and heavier.

Reggie stops and drops to one knee. Mayhem and carnage surround him as he sees to passenger.

Without warning, a dwarf with a neck wound runs directly toward Reg and Mike.

Reggie manages to reach through the slit in the throat and grab the drone's cervical column. The dwarf wretches and spasms as its cervix is fractured.

Reggie pulls his hand out, and the minion slouches to the ground. The spasms abate and the dwarf expires with a last shrill exhale.

Reggie rises to his feet; his forearm is drenched in Gugga from the dead drone. As he flings the yellow goop from his arm, his look of disgust turns into a look of realization.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Gugga. Aw shit. That's why Mike seems so heavy. I'm running low on zombie juice.

Reggie looks down at the dead drone sprawled out in front of him, then at his Gugga covered hand, and then at the exit a couple hundred yards away.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Well, you gotta do what you gotta do.

Reggie picks up the dwarf's carcass and places it in his lap.

Hesitant from revulsion, he takes his right hand and reaches into the dwarf's slashed throat, scooping out a big handful of Gugga. With his free hand Reg picks out chunks of flesh and bone from the yellow goop cupped in his right palm.

Aversion fills his face as he gobbles down the slimy substance.

After a few moments of gagging and hacking, Reggie feels his strength returning. He stands up, slings the disrupter over his shoulder and bends down to pick up Mike.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

C'mon Mike, we're going home.

Reggie picks up Mike and heads for the Hive's exit.

Mike takes notice of the slaughter around him. He slowly realizes that, despite how many Jody and Cob kill, more and more drones are surrounding them.

The dwarves' numbers are increasing exponentially, becoming too numerous to count.

MIKE

Reg, you might as well hang it up. This is as close as we're going to get to home.

REGGIE

Don't worry, partner, we're almost. . .

Reggie stops dead in his tracks, just fifty yards away from the exit.

The drones have managed to cut off the Hive's escape route. Reggie, Mike, Jody and the others have been outflanked and encircled by a hundred dwarves, with thousands more encroaching out of the darkness.

Jody and Cob rotate quickly around Reggie and Mike, killing the approaching dwarves in a circular pattern. This ring of death has a diameter of fifteen feet and a height of four feet -- the height resultant from the piling up of the drones slain by Jody and Cob.

The levee, created from the downed drone carcasses, stops the approaching horde and holds them at bay.

Jody and Cob morph back into sapient form.

JODY

Well, I never thought it would end like this.

REGGIE

You quitting? After all this you're talking about quitting, now? Well the Hell with that. There's still a way outta here. Maybe we can. . .

JODY

What? What can we do? We've had it. It's over. Even if we make it out of here, then what? Cob and I can't hold off all these little fuckers for long, and once they've made it past us, you and Mike are finished.

COB

Don't worry about holding them
off, boss. That's my end, and
I've got it covered.

Cob's eyes motion toward an overhang of massive disjointed
rocks just above the Hive's exit.

COB (CONT'D)

You just get these guys out
of here and back to mother
Earth.

Jody looks at Cob, then over at the mounting dwarf mob.

Several drones have managed to climb atop the corpse barrier
and position themselves to attack.

JODY

I wish I had time to argue with
you, but it looks like your way
is the only chance we have.

Jody grabs Cob's hand in a firm handshake.

JODY (CONT'D)

See you in the next life.

COB

You bet.

Jody turns and goes over to where Reggie and Mike are
crouching. He kneels down, looks lovingly at Mike and then
grabs Reggie by the shoulder.

JODY

Heads up Reg, and listen close.
Once we start, you can't stop,
not for anything! We're only
going to get one shot at
getting out of here in one
piece, and if we blow it then
everyone loses. Now don't
forget, you're the key, bud.
You have to carry Mike through
this shithouse of muck and
dead bodies without falling
down even once. You fall, and
they'll swarm you.

REGGIE

Terrific. Why don't you just
shove a rocket up my ass and
fly me outta here?

JODY

Just follow behind Cob and me. We'll blaze a trail right through these mothers. We'll make it out, we have to. Oh, and don't stop once we clear the exit, just keep on running as fast as you can. Don't look back, no matter what you hear, just run.

Reg stands up and positions Mike into a fireman's carry around his neck and over his shoulders.

REGGIE

Okay, Jody. Let's do it.

Jody and Cob morph into sphere form and head straight for the Hive's exit, slicing and dicing all of the dwarves in their path.

Reggie follows closely behind, taking great care as he carries Mike through an obstacle course of slaughtered dwarves.

Mike looks to the rear and catches sight of hundreds of drones closing in behind them.

MIKE

C'mon, Reg, hurry!

Reggie and Mike approach within ten yards of the exit. Jody and Cob have managed to clear away all of the dwarves that were blocking their escape.

As Jody, Reggie and Mike continue towards the way out, Cob stops and turns to engage the approaching horde. This sudden move surprises the dwarves, causing them to halt their pursuit.

Then, just as Jody, Reg and Mike reach the exit, Cob spins around and soars straight into the midst of the rock overhang that rests just above the Hive's outlet. The force of the impact brings down tons of debris, sealing up the exit preventing the dwarf mob from exiting the Hive.

EXT. RED PLANET - HIVE ENTRANCE - DAY

Reggie, Mike and Jody exit the Hive. The destruction of the entrance resounds behind them.

REGGIE

What the Hell was that? Where's
Cob? He made it out, didn't he?

JODY

Never mind Cob -- he's gone.
Just keep running.

EXT. RED PLANET - GROUND ZERO - DAY

Jody, Reggie and Mike come to rest some fifty yards away from
the exit.

Jody morphs back into sapient form. Reggie sets Mike down,
and then looks back at the Hive.

Tons of debris have blocked off the outlet completely. There
is no sign of activity, no hint of life within. An eerie
silence has shrouded the Hive.

REGGIE

Cob -- man you really came
through for us. I won't forget
you, pal.

JODY

None of us will, Reg. But we
don't have time for sentiment
right now. We have to hustle.
Mike has to get far away from
here. We've no time to lose.

REGGIE

Relax, man. Whoa! We've won!
We killed that tall creep. We
got Mike. It'll take a year
for those little bastards to dig
their way out. . .

A low hum begins to sound, breaking the still silence. The
sound is emanating from within the Hive. Its level of volume
is rapidly increasing.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

On second thought, let's get
the Hell out of here, like
you suggested.

Reggie slings Mike over his shoulder and gets ready to run.
Mike starts to moan, as if he was in pain.

Jody looks at Mike, then back at the Hive, and then up ahead at the two giant metallic heaps that they passed through earlier.

Mike's moaning increases, as does the sound coming from the Hive.

MIKE

Reg. . .Jody. . .Reg. . .Jody. . .

REGGIE

We're right here, Mike. We got ya. You don't have to. . .

JODY

Reg! C'mon, man. Let's go.

REGGIE

Okay, Jody. I'm coming. Just gimme a minute to catch my breath. Besides, gimme some credit. I'm not exactly. . .

JODY

Will you shut the fuck up and run, now!

REGGIE

Okay, okay man. Shit! I'm running. Beats me why, but I am.

Jody Morphs into sphere mode and take off, with Reggie and Mike following closely behind.

JODY

Reg, listen up. We only have a few seconds. We have to get Mike clear of those mounds of metal.

Reggie looks ahead towards the mounds, some fifty yards away, and shakes his head.

JODY (CONT'D)

I'm not sure why, I just feel we must, and that we don't have much time left to do it.

REGGIE

Yeah -- sure. Whatever you say man.

Reggie feels Mike writhe about, as if in agony, and then suddenly become perfectly still and quiet.

MIKE

You messed up, Reg. You should
have bashed in both of our heads
back there in the Hive.

REGGIE

Mike? What. . .

Before Reggie can finish his sentence, Mike swings his leg from around Reggie's shoulder, lands both feet down, and shoves Reg hard from behind.

Reggie is thrown to the ground, dazed and confused.

Jody stops, turns back towards the commotion, then morphs into sapient form.

JODY

No, Mike. No!

Jody runs towards Mike.

The sound emanating from the Hive ceases abruptly. Mike, standing tall, slowly raises up his arms towards the two piles of refined ore.

Reggie lays upon the ground, watching in bewilderment.

Mike now stands with his left hand pointing toward the metallic mound on the left, and his right hand pointing toward the mound on the right.

Without warning, an intense beam of light, accompanied by a high pitched shriek, darts from the Hive clearing the barricade that blocked the exit. The light strikes Mike in the middle of his back.

Just before he reaches Mike, Jody stops in mid stride, morphs back into sphere form, and drops to the ground disoriented and immobilized.

Reggie turns away, shielding his eyes from the brilliant shaft of light.

The light from the Hive has now completely enveloped Mike, making him luminescent.

Two separate light beams, one from his left hand and the other from his right, shoot into the two mounds of refined ore.

The mounds glow brilliantly, and then are transformed into an enormous Space Gate whose prongs loom one hundred feet high and stand fifty feet apart.

Now with the gate formed, the light emanating from the Hive shuts off, as does the shrill scream. Mike's luminosity slowly fades away.

After his glow has vanished completely, Mike falls limp to the ground, morphs into a gold sphere, and remains motionless.

Reggie recovers, looks toward Mike and Jody, and then at the colossal Space Gate towering in front of them.

REGGIE
Sweet Mother!

Reg stands up, slowly, still staring at the silver monstrosity before him.

A faint sound cuts through the eerie silence. The noise breaks Reggie's stare and redirects it back toward the Hive, from where this new sound is coming.

The sound is that of activity from within the Hive. Reggie cannot yet see the source of the commotion.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Hell if I'm sticking around
to see what comes out of that
bitch hole.

Reg picks up Mike and Jody's spheres. He pockets Mike's sphere, but before he can pocket Jody's Reg hears a faint voice.

JODY
(faintly)
The gate, Reg. Go through the
gate. Get us outta here -- now
before. . .

REGGIE
You want me to take us through
there -- through that thing? No
offense, Jody, but I think you're
one nut short of a sack. I vote
that we. . .

Reggie is interrupted mid speech by an earsplitting commotion from behind. The bedlam coming from the Hive has peaked into wails of frenzy.

Reggie looks back in horror to witness a streak of black divide the Hive vertically at the center.

A maelstrom of stench spews forth as the Hive splits open at the partition.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Fuck me!

An Overlord Sphere slowly emerges out of the darkness of the segmented Hive.

Two more of the massive dark orbs follow closely behind the first.

Each Overlord spews forth a deafening roar -- their combined bellow like an aggregate of all suffering and lamentation found within the bowels of Hell.

The evil spewing forth from the Hive is heading slowly toward the Ground Zero Space Gate.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

On second thought. . .

Reggie picks up Mike and puts him over his shoulders.

He picks up the disrupter with one hand, and then Jody's sphere with the other.

Reg stands to his feet, buckling from the weight he's carrying. He stares back at the Hive.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

I just hope we don't end up on
fucking Pluto.

Reggie runs through the Ground Zero Space Gate.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DAY

Reggie arrives back on Earth

REGGIE

Yes! We made it boys -- we made it
back!

A look of recognition comes over Reggie's face.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Hey -- we're right back at the same
place -- but where's the gate I
came through?

Reggie kneels and puts down Jody's sphere and the disrupter,
then gently lays Mike upon the ground.

Reg stands up and looks in terror toward the sky.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Holy mother!

To his horror, Reg discovers the standard sized Space Gate he
used to follow the Tall Man back to the Red Planet has been
replaced by one identical to the Ground Zero gate he just
traveled through.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
But how -- how did. . .

Reggie looks over toward Mike and Jody.

INSERT - JODY'S SPHERE

Jody's sphere lying still on the desert floor.

BACK TO SCENE

Reg runs over and grabs Jody's sphere.

REGGIE
Jody. . .Jody! Answer me you son of
a bitch!

Reggie shakes the sphere, then puts it to his ear. After
hearing nothing, Reggie lowers the sphere from his ear and
falls to his knees.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
What have we done -- God in heaven,
what have we done?

Reggie loosens his grip letting Jody's sphere fall to the
ground. He crawls over to check on Mike.

Reg here's a familiar voice behind him.

JODY
Sorry Reg -- I didn't know.

Reggie turns around to face Jody, who has morphed into sapient form.

REGGIE

Didn't know? You didn't know what buddy. . .You didn't know what?

JODY

I thought that if we could get Mike away -- get him back here -- that the Dark Ones wouldn't be able to use him to bridge the void.

Jody walks over to Mike. He looks down soulfully at his half-conscious little brother.

JODY (CONT'D)

But it looks like Mike is the bridge. Don't you get it? The Dark Ones intended for Mike to come through first -- to create the bridge they need to cross over. And I helped get him here.

REGGIE

You and me both. We just signed Earth's death warrant. But wait a second -- you're the inside man here. How could you fuck up so monumentally? How could you not know. . .

JODY

Hey will you lay off, man? It's easy to stand there and bitch and moan now -- after someone else had to make all the goddamn decisions. Besides, the only other option open to us was to have you kill Mike before he left the Hive -- and I didn't think you would've wanted to go that route.

REGGIE

No -- I wouldn't have been able to go through with anything like that.

JODY

I guess the Dark Ones' hold over Mike was stronger than I thought.

REGGIE

You think? Well all I know is that if we don't do something, and quick, all Hell's gonna come pouring through that fuckin' gate.

Reg and Jody look up at the enormous Space Gate towering over them.

JODY

There's only one thing left to do -- only one chance left to save the world. . .We have to destroy this gate within the next hour.

REGGIE

That's it? That's the best you can come up with? Well don't look at me, man. This one's a little too big for me to lay my hands on.

A faint voice speaks out. Reggie and Jody turn toward the voice.

MIKE

(faintly)

Fu. . .The fu. . .

REGGIE

Yeah -- let's get the fuck outta here.

JODY

Shut up man, and listen.

MIKE

Fork. . .We have to use the fork.

Mike points toward Reggie's sonic disrupter lying on the ground.

INSERT - SONIC DISRUPTER

Close on fork barrel of sonic disrupter.

BACK TO SCENE

Reggie and Jody both look at the weapon that Mike is pointing to.

REGGIE

That thing's no good to us anymore,
Mikey. All, the shells are gone,
and there's no way in Hell that I
could whack this thing hard enough
to ice those big black mothers.

Jody looks at the disrupter barrel, then at the gate, and
then back at the barrel.

JODY

I have an idea.

REGGIE

I hope it's better than the last
one.

JODY

For it to work we're going to need
your Cuda.

REGGIE

My Cuda, why do we -- nevermind.

Reg picks up his weapon, then helps Mike up to his feet.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

I have a feeling I don't want to
know why. C'mon, let's get her.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - DAY

Reggie, Mike and Jody make their way through the desert.

Mike is able to walk again, as long as he supports himself on
Reggie's shoulder.

Reggie, a little unsure of where he's going, leads on.

LATER

Reg and the others climb up a steep embankment. When they
reach the top, they stop and smile.

REGGIE

I knew I'd be able to sniff out
that bitch.

The trio walk down toward Reggie's car, a black nineteen-
seventy convertible HEMICUDA.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Well we found her -- now what? I mean the bitch might haul ass, but what good is that to us now? Even if we wanted to turn tail and run, we've got nowhere to run to.

JODY

Don't worry, Reg. We didn't come this far just to quit now. Besides you're right, there is no escape route open to us.

REGGIE

So what are we doing with the Cuda then? Those evil fucks are gonna be here anytime now and we're screwing with a goddamn muscle car. What are we gonna do, hope they're gear heads and give 'em the Cuda as a present in exchange for our asses?

Mike limps over to the Cuda. He strokes the hood with the palm of his right hand while looking up and down the hood's length.

INSERT - CARBURETOR COVER

Carburetor cover sticking up through hood cut-out.

BACK TO SCENE

Mike smiles, then looks at Reggie's shouldered weapon.

INSERT - FORK BARREL

Tuning fork barrel of Reggie's weapon.

BACK TO SCENE

MIKE

We're going to give 'em the Cuda, but not as a present.

JODY

You bet your ass, little brother.

MIKE

Reg, I need you to bring over your gun, and then get the toolkit from the trunk. And hurry -- we've got a lot to do and not much time to do it in.

Reggie shakes his head as he walks toward his car.

REGGIE

Once more into the breach, dear friends.

MONTAGE

- A) Death Valley Ground Zero Space Gate.
- B) Reg lays down his gun on the hood of the Cuda.
- C) Mike and Jody talking in front of the car.
- D) Reggie getting tools from the trunk.
- E) Red Planet invasion forces approaching Space Gate.
- F) Reggie sets tools down by Mike and Jody.
- G) Death Valley Ground Zero Space Gate.
- H) Reggie sitting on ground dismantling his weapon.
- I) Reggie lays detached tuning fork barrel upon hood.
- J) Overlord Spheres approaching Red Planet Space Gate.
- K) Reggie takes off carb cover, Mike shakes his head no, then Reg sighs and tosses the cover over his shoulder.
- L) Mike instructs as Reggie works on car.
- M) Death Valley Ground Zero Space Gate.
- N) Mike instructs Reggie as he positions the fork barrel.
- O) Red Planet Ground zero invasion forces.
- P) Reggie welding fork into place.
- Q) Reggie, Mike and Jody looking toward car.
- R) Cuda with three-foot tuning fork extending through hood.
- S) Death Valley Ground Zero Space Gate.

BACK TO SCENE

The three friends stand in a semi-circle next to the modified Cuda.

JODY

Okay guys, looks like this is going to be our last hurrah -- let's make it count.

The three friends look one another in the eye, then climb into the Cuda and take off.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DUSK

The Cuda stops near a large boulder that lies about one hundred yards in front of the Ground Zero Space Gate.

Reggie, Mike and Jody get out of the car and stare up at the monstrosity before them.

REGGIE

So do we draw straws to see which one of us lucky stiffs gets to -- wait a second. . .What is the plan? You two never bothered to tell me.

MIKE

We didn't tell you the plan cause we weren't sure if you'd go along with it.

REGGIE

Go along with what?

JODY

I can't do it -- I'm not as I appear, remember.

REGGIE

So that leaves Mike and me, and I'm in far better shape. . .

MIKE

Forget it, Reg. I have to be the one to do it.

REGGIE

To do what?

MIKE

I'm going to drive the Cuda into the gate as the Dark Ones begin to come through.

REGGIE

Fuck me.

MIKE

The field generated by the fork on the Cuda will cause a chain reaction that will destroy both gates along with the Dark Ones and all their forces.

REGGIE

And you too -- right?

Mike looks at Reggie, then down to the ground.

INSERT - JEBEDIAH MORNINGSIDE

Jebediah Morningside lying on slab and connected to tubes.

BACK TO SCENE

MIKE

Reg, I am the author of my fate.

REGGIE

But you can't even stand on your own.

MIKE

I don't have to stand to drive, Reggie.

JODY

It's already been decided, Reg. Mike has to be the one to go.

REGGIE

Bullshit! I don't remember casting my vote. Don't I have a say in this?

JODY

Not this time, partner.

REGGIE

But why? Why does it have to be Mike? Why can't I. . .

MIKE

Reggie! I'm the bridge, remember. As long as I'm alive there's a danger -- a chance of invasion by the Dark Ones. If our plan doesn't kill all of them, and I am left alive on Earth, the ones still living could always make more Space Gates by using their connection to me -- all this would be for nothing.

Mike walks over and puts his hand on Reggie's shoulder.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I have to be the one to save Planet Earth, and die in the process.

Reggie pulls away from Mike.

REGGIE

No. . .No! There has to be another way. Let's just take a couple of minutes and come up with another way.

Mike looks at Jody as Reggie scrambles about futilely trying to come up with another plan.

Reggie falls to his knees in desperation.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

There has to be something -- some way we can -- if we had time to come up with another plan. . .

Mike limps over to comfort Reggie.

MIKE

There's no time left, brother. We have to go with what we got.

JODY

He's right, man. Besides, this isn't about us anymore -- it's about saving the world.

REGGIE

Screw that! After everything I've been through to save this kid, do you think I'm gonna give him up now?

Reggie turns toward Mike and reaches out with his right hand.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Gimme the keys, Mike -- I'm
driving.

Mike backs slowly away from Reggie.

MIKE
C'mon Reg, we don't have time for
this.

REGGIE
Exactly, so gimme the goddamn keys
before I take 'em from you.

Reggie moves slowly toward Mike.

Mike backs away, glances quickly at Jody, then glances down
at the detached rifle stock on the ground beside his feet.

Jody looks at the stock, then back up at Mike and nods
subtly.

JODY
Reggie, look out!

Reggie turns quickly around toward Jody.

REGGIE
What?

Mike quickly reaches down and picks up the rifle stock, then
strikes Reggie on the back of the head with it.

Reggie falls unconscious to the ground.

MIKE
Sorry Reggie.

JODY
C'mon Mike, were' out of time --
you've got to go now.

MIKE
You'll take care of Reggie, won't
you -- send him some place where
he'll be alright?

JODY
Don't worry, little brother. I'll
take good care of Reg. I'll send
him to a place he deserves to be --
we owe him that much.

Mike walks up to Jody.

MIKE

I'm going to miss you, bro.

JODY

You won't have to -- I'll be with you soon.

MIKE

And Mom and Dad?

JODY

We'll all be together again, forever.

The brothers share a long embrace.

JODY (CONT'D)

Now -- go and finish the game.

Mike embraces his brother one last time, then climbs into the Cuda and starts it up.

Jody is instantly immobilized by the vibration of the tuning fork attached to the car's engine.

Mike revs the Cuda's engine.

EXT. RED PLANET - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DUSK

The Dark Ones' invasion force continues toward the Space Gate, with the lead Overlord Sphere only a few yards away from the gate's entrance.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DUSK

Mike revs the Cuda's engine higher, causing the tuning fork to vibrate stronger. Jody, still immobilized, reverts back to sphere form and falls motionless on the ground next to Reggie.

INT. HEMICUDA - DUSK

Mike looks over at Reggie, who is still lying on the ground unconscious. A tear rolls down his cheek.

Suddenly, Mike is startled a noise loud enough to be heard over the Cuda's roaring engine. He turns toward the source of the commotion.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DUSK

The sound is coming from the Ground Zero Space Gate. An Overlord Sphere is starting to crown from the gate. As it begins to emerge, it is accompanied by an earsplitting thunderous roar.

The combined uproar of the Cuda's engine and the Overlord's bellow jars Reggie back to consciousness. After coming to, he sees Mike sitting in the Cuda's driver's seat revving the engine and staring straight into the evil coming forth from the gate.

Reggie climbs to his feet and starts toward his friend.

REGGIE

Mike -- stop Mike. Don't do it --
don't. . .

INSERT - GEARSHIFT

Mike shifts into first gear.

INSERT - GAS PEDAL

Mike slams foot down on gas pedal.

INSERT - REAR WHEEL

Rear wheel spinning.

BACK TO SCENE

REGGIE

Mike! Come back!

Mike takes off, leaving Reggie in a cloud of dust.

INT. HEMICUDA - DUSK

Mike looks back at Reg, then looks dead ahead. He shifts into second gear.

The vibration from the fork grows even stronger.

INSERT - TUNING FORK

Tuning fork grafted onto Cuda.

BACK TO SCENE

Mike shifts to third and guns the engine.

The fork is vibrating to the point where both Jody and the Cuda are pulsating -- the sonic waves penetrating them are at a deadly level.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DUSK

The lead Overlord Sphere is halfway through the gate.

Mike's in the Cuda hauling ass straight for the looming sphere.

Reggie looks on, then starts toward the gate.

INT. HEMICUDA - DUSK

Mike shifts into forth gear and floors the pedal.

MIKE

Game over!

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DUSK

The Cuda races up an incline, becomes airborne, and flies straight toward the middle of the emerging sphere.

The Cuda makes contact with the Overlord. Time seems to freeze for an instant, and a still silence fills the desert setting.

Then a tremendous burst of light bursts from the gate, accompanied by deafening wails of pain and lamentation.

Reggie ducks for cover as the gate, the Overlord Sphere, the Cuda and Mike disintegrate into nothingness.

EXT. RED PLANET - GROUND ZERO SPACE GATE - DUSK

The Red Planet gate, along with the Dark Ones and all their henchmen, are also laid to waste.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO - DUSK

Reggie looks at the crater where the Ground Zero Space Gate once stood.

REGGIE

Mike. . .

Reggie slowly turns and walks back toward Jody's sphere, which is still lying immobile on the desert floor.

He sits down and looks at the sphere for a few moments, then picks it up.

INSERT - SILVER SPHERE

Reggie's hand holding Jody in sphere form.

BACK TO SCENE

Reggie shakes the sphere then puts it to his ear, but it remains idle and silent.

Reggie places the sphere on the ground beside him, then sits staring into the distance.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO - NIGHT

Reggie sitting with head between his hands.

EXT. EARTH - DEATH VALLEY - GROUND ZERO - DAWN

Reggie sits staring at the sunrise.

LATER

Reg looks over at the rifle stock lying on the ground. He gets up and walks over to it, then bends down and picks it up.

INSERT - RIFLE STOCK

Reggie's hand holding rifle stock.

BACK TO SCENE

A look of disgust fills Reggie's face. He reels back and throws the stock far away from him.

Tears begin to roll down Reggie's face. As he wipes the tears away, Reg hears a faint voice call his name. He turns back and forth, trying to find the source of the call.

Reggie looks to where Jody's sphere was and finds Jody's human form lying there instead. Jody appears weak and drained.

JODY
Reg. . .Reggie.

Reggie hurries over to Jody and kneels down beside him.

REGGIE
Jody -- you're alive.

JODY
Only just -- the fork on the Cuda
really wiped me out.

REGGIE
No kidding -- you look like
something the cat dragged in.

Reggie's expression turns sullen.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Mike's dead isn't he?

JODY
Yes -- he's gone Reg.

Reggie's eyes well up with tears as he turns away from Jody. He stands up and takes a couple of steps toward the rising sun.

Jody slowly rises to his feet, then walks over and stands behind Reggie.

JODY (CONT'D)
I know you're hurting buddy -- so
am I. Just make sure you always
remember that Mike gave his life to
save us all.

REGGIE
Yeah he's a hero alright. The most
important hero the world's ever
had. Yeah. . .But it still doesn't
ease the pain. I'm really gonna
miss him. But hey -- I've still got
you, Jody.

JODY
I wish that you did.

REGGIE
What do you mean by that?

JODY

I mean I'm dying, Reg. I'm just about all used up.

REGGIE

C'mon, Jody. You might be a little banged up from the Cuda but you're still good to go. I know we have a hell of a long walk ahead of us, so I'll tell you what -- when you get too tired, all you have to do is turn into a ball and hitch a ride in my pocket. It won't bother me -- it'll just be like hanging an extra set between my legs. What do ya say?

Jody snickers and shakes his head.

JODY

Sounds great, but you don't understand -- I am dying.

Jody walks a couple of steps away from Reggie.

JODY (CONT'D)

I'll be dead within the hour.

Reggie goes quickly over and stands in front of Jody.

REGGIE

What do you mean, man? We won. We sent those assholes on a one-way trip to oblivion.

JODY

That's just it -- when the Dark Ones were destroyed, their link with the spheres was severed. Their link not only controls us, it also gives us our spark of life. The link keeps us alive -- without it we perish.

Reggie walks away from Jody.

REGGIE

No. . .I don't wanna hear this. This is bullshit, man -- not you too. . .Shit! I don't want to be alone.

JODY

You won't be Reg, trust me.

Reggie laughs quietly to himself. He begins to hear a familiar hum coming from behind him.

He turns around and sees a Space Gate erected upon the desert floor. The new gate stands an equal distance between Reg and Jody.

REGGIE
What's this?

JODY
It's your ticket outta here,
Reggie. . .It's your way back home.

REGGIE
Alright! If I never see the desert
again it'll be too soon.

Reggie starts toward the gate, then stops and looks at Jody.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Wait -- come with me, Jody.

Jody looks at Reggie and smiles warmly.

JODY
Sounds good, but what would be the
point? Besides, this is a one trip
gate for one passenger only. I
wouldn't be able to make it through
even if I wanted to. It took all
the juice I had left to generate
this gate -- and it won't last for
much longer.

Jody goes down on one knee.

JODY (CONT'D)
Hurry Reggie -- I don't know how
much longer I can keep it open.

Reggie looks teary-eyed at his friend.

REGGIE
See ya on the flip-side, Jody.

JODY
You bet ya, Reggie.

Reggie steps through the Space Gate.

INT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NIGHT - 1988 A.D.

Reggie walks through the front door of his house, the same one that was destroyed along with his family about ten years ago.

His face fills with the looks of disbelief and confusion, then with euphoric delight.

REGGIE

I'm home. . .I'm back home. God
Almighty!

Reggie's joy turns into desperate anticipation.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Please, Lord in Heaven, please let
them. . .Celeste. . .Bonnie?

Reggie hurries toward the darkened living room.

INT. REGGIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reggie enters and fumbles for the light switch. He turns on the lights. The living room is full of people.

GUESTS

Surprise!

The GUESTS for Reggie's surprise party applaud the guest of honor. In the front of the cheering crowd stand Celeste, Martha and Bonnie.

CELESTE

Surprise honey!

BONNIE

Happy birthday, Daddy!

Reggie's eyes fill with tears. He runs over and hugs his family so tightly he almost squeezes their breathe away.

CELESTE

Take it easy, sweetheart. Your
acting like you haven't seen us in
a year.

Reggie breaks his embrace, wipes away the tears flowing down his cheeks, then bends down and picks up his daughter.

REGGIE

Ten years.

BONNIE

Why are you crying, Daddy?

REGGIE

Because I'm happy, baby. . .I'm So happy.

BONNIE

Really -- I cry when I'm sad.

AUNT MARTHA

I think he's just going senile. I'm always telling him his brain isn't being kept warm enough by that bald head of his.

Reggie laughs, as do most of the guests.

REGGIE

Whatever you say, Martha. You're usually right -- usually.

AUNT MARTHA

Well in that case, how about a toast from the guest of honor? You look like you could use a stiff drink.

REGGIE

I sure could, Martha. See, you're right again.

Reggie gives his aunt a big kiss, then looks around the room.

Reg spots a lie of filled champagne glasses sitting on the bar, in front of the shutters that secret the living room from the kitchen.

Reggie walks over to the bar and picks up a full glass. He turns and faces his family and friends.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

To my family and friends, to God for making this possible -- I'm home!

The shutters fly open behind Reggie, revealing the Tall Man and Tall Mike.

Reggie turns quickly around and faces his nemeses.

THE TALL MAN

No. . .

TALL MIKE

You're not!

Reggie's family and guests have all become dwarves. They seize Reggie, dragging him violently backwards.

Reggie screams as he disappears into the evil horde.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END